Announcement of research findings

2530. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the research outputs/findings are made known to the public regularly;

(b) if so, the mechanism and periodicity of such publications/ announcements; and

(c) the details of such research outputs so made known during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The research outputs/findings are made known to the public regularly through various publications like Department of Biotechnology, Council of Scientific Industrial Research, Department of Science and Technology news letters, Scientific Engineering Research Council Research highlights and other such news letters/publications etc. and Annual Reports of each Science and Technology Department and Autonomous Scientific Research Institution. The abstracts of research output/publications are also available in these annual reports and news letters. The websites of these S&T agencies/institutions also project the research outputs from time to time.

Research of nanotechnology

2531. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently signed an agreement with Canada with a special emphasis on research on nanotechnology;

(b) if so, the details and scope of the agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have announced launch of a national nanotechnology centre;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of any other initiatives taken by Government to promote nanotechnology research in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) and (e) India and Canada have concluded an inter-governmental agreement at Toronto on 18th November, 2005 facilitating joint scientific and technological cooperation. Nano-Science and Nano-Technology; Sustainable Energy; Biomedical Technologies; Infotainment; and Natural Disasters and Earth Sciences have been identified as priority areas of cooperation.

(c) It has been suggested to the Canadian Government that a joint Indo-Canadian Centre for Nanotechnology may be set up in India. The suggestion is in the initial stage and no firm response agreeing to this suggestion has been received from the Canadian side. However, Government has launched a "Nano science and Nanotechnology initiative (NSTI)" programme in October, 2001 for encouraging research in nanotechnology.

(d) and (e) Under NSTI, about 100 R&D projects have been supported in the areas of nanofabrication, nanolithography, DNA chips, nanocomposites, molecular electronics, nanosensors, drug delivery, carbon nanotubes and wireless etc. 10 Centres of Excellence/Core groups in Nano-Science have been established. 6 new centres on nanoelectronics, NEMS/MEMS, sensors, tissue engineering have also been approved recently. A sum of approximately Rs. 100 crores has been allocated to various research institutes in the country so far under this programme.

Connecting naxal affected States

2532. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan to connect the naxal affected States is on foot;

(b) if so, the details of the naxal affected States to be connected by roads.

(c) the total estimated cost of this project; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to connect all the naxal affected States?